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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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LATE NEWS

Russian scientists report new strides in the raising of perennial wheat. An experiment station has been set up under the supervision of Academician Nikelai Tsitsin, widely known for his achievements in hybridization and selection, at which the best varieties of winter and spring wheat and couchgrass hybrids will be tested and propagated. The station plans to sew as many as 1,000 specimens of Tsitsin perennial hybrids on its experimental fields this year. The problem of developing perennial wheat has now been solved, said Tsitsin. He pointed out that for 2 years perennial wheat has been giving quite high yields in the Moscow region. At present we have five kinds of perennial wheat which give two and three harvests, he stated.

Results of a recent British poll on bread rationing in Great Britain, as reported by the London News Chronicle on April 18, were given as follows: In replying to the question, do you approve or disapprove of bread rationing in this country, having regard to the world shortage of wheat, 41 percent stated that they would approve, 50 percent that they would disapprove, and 9 percent that they had no opinion. In reply to a second question as to whether they thought it would be possible to make bread rationing work, 51 percent of those queried answered in the affirmative, 35 percent in the negative, and 14 percent had no opinion.

Swiss officials estimated that consumers in that country at present obtain from 2,200 to 2,400 calories per day in rationed and unrationed foods but that present rations cannot be maintained. From authoritative sources information has been obtained that by May 1 the monthly fat ration will have to be reduced from 1,300 to 1,000 grams. Of these 1,000 grams, 200 will be butter, it was stated. The same source stated that the cheese ration would have to be reduced from 500 to 400 grams. The bread grain situation was also said to be growing more serious. It was pointed out that the necessary steps, economic and political, already had been taken to reduce the bread grain ration as of July 1.

The current bread ration in Belgium is 400 grams daily at 83 percent extraction and incorporatics 10-percent rye with 90-percent wheat. The Belgians estimate current monthly requirements to meet the ration at 88,000 short tons of wheat plus 8,800 tons of rye. The current Belgian grain supply outlook was reported as follows: Wheat stocks at the end of March 103,400 short tons; estimated arrivals 55,000 tons in April, 33,000 tons in May, and 27,500 tons in June. With respect to rye, the stocks at the end of March were estimated at 39,100 short tons and estimated arrivals at 99,000 tons, for April, 20,900 tons, for May, and 6,600 tons for June. The above totals do not include wheat arrivals which will result if a barter deal is made for corn and other grains bought by Belgium in Argentina. Against the estimated wheat arrivals of 55,000 short tons for April, 22,000 tons were received during the first half of the month. Unless wheat and flour leadings for Belgium are increased, a breakdown of Belgian bread distribution will result.

*This section is continued on page 258.

WORLD FLAXSEED PRODUCTION IN 1945

Latest estimates for 1945 flaxseed production place the world total at 136.2 million bushels, an increase of 19 percent over the revised estimate for 1944. Although the 1945 world output was small in relation to the harvests of the early 1940's, it compared favorably with the 1935-1939 average. Downward revisions from the December estimates (Foreign Crops and Markets, December 17, 1945) in Argentina, Turkey, and Egypt were offset to some extent by slight increases in the United States, Canada, Uruguay, and minor producing countries of Asia. Reports recently received indicate that the Soviet Union production figures for 1943-1945 were lower than formerly estimated.

Although the latest estimate for 1945 flaxseed production in the United States is 36.7 million bushels, the second largest on record, the crop is not sufficient to meet present demands. Domestic consumption is at a high level, and imports will be required to maintain industrial activity.

Canadian flaxseed production in 1945 was the smallest in several years. With a carry-over of 2.9 million bushels on August 1, total supplies amounted to 10.5 million, compared with 13.3 million in 1944-45. Flaxseed exports have declined drastically during the current season. August-December shipments were less than 400,000 bushels, 65 percent smaller than in the corresponding period a year earlier. Total exports of flaxseed during 1945-46 (August-July) will probably drop below a million bushels; however, linseed-oil shipments will undoubtedly be larger. Canada's crushing industry was greatly expanded during the war and annual capacity is now estimated at 8 million bushels.

Meager information available indicates that European flaxseed production for 1945 was the smallest in a decade. Estimates may be further reduced when official returns are received, since numerous factors retarded agricultural progress. Seeds for planting and fertilizer were in short supply throughout the continent, manpower and draft animals were insufficient to meet the demand, and farm machinery during the war was either worn out or destroyed.

India's 1945 flaxseed production of 15.6 million bushels was larger than that of the previous year but 14 percent less than the prewar (1935-1939) average. Prior to the outbreak of war in Europe, flaxseed was produced chiefly for export, with the bulk of the shipments going to other British Empire countries and continental Europe.

There is a slight upward revision in the minor flaxseed producing countries of Asia; however, Turkey's outturn is the smallest in a decade but equals the 1930-1934 average. Japan's 1945 harvest was also below average, owing to war activities.

Argentina's 1945 flaxseed production is officially estimated at 39.5 million bushels, a crop much below average for that country. Uruguay's total harvest is 4.7 million bushels, the second largest on record.

FLAXSEED: Acreage and production in specified areas, year of harvest, averages 1930-1934 and 1935-1939, annual 1943-1945 a/

Continent and country	Acreage					Production				
	Average					Average				
	1930-1934	1935-1939	1943	1944	1945 b/	1930-1934	1935-1939	1943	1944	1945 b/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
North America:										
United States	2,108	1,451	5,847	2,794	3,914	11,512	10,991	51,946	23,527	36,688
Canada	432	307	2,948	1,323	1,059	2,359	1,508	17,911	9,668	7,593
Mexico	9	16	105	(125)	(140)	81	111	1,145	(984)	(1,181)
Estimated total c/	2,600	1,800	9,000	4,300	5,200	14,000	12,700	71,100	34,300	45,600
Europe:										
Poland d/	253	e/ 340	-	-	-	1,974	e/ 2,817	f/ 2,157	-	-
Lithuania d/	148	205	-	-	-	1,009	1,358	-	-	-
Latvia d/	105	164	-	-	-	533	801	-	-	-
Rumania d/	55	54	-	-	-	415	339	-	-	-
Estonia d/	51	66	62	-	-	288	366	-	-	-
France d/	44	92	121	104	94	363	464	607	-	-
Belgium d/	35	75	31	26	60	294	664	282	179	546
Hungary	d/ 31	19	-	-	7	252	283	-	-	51
Yugoslavia d/	29	33	-	-	-	37	52	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia d/	22	e/ 40	-	-	-	127	e/ 289	-	-	-
Germany d/	18	e/ 105	-	-	-	e/ 187	e/ 1,123	-	-	-
Netherlands d/	17	42	37	29	23	175	546	403	(300)	(230)
Italy	14	16	d/ 70	d/ 54	-	139	202	391	320	-
Austria	4	e/ 5	-	-	-	24	e/ 29	-	-	-
Bulgaria d/	1	8	h/ 28	h/ 29	-	10	52	h/ 265	h/ 160	-
Estimated total c/	850	1,300	1,200	1,200	950	5,900	9,400	10,500	10,300	7,500
Soviet Union d/	6,726	e/ 5,805	-	-	-	29,865	e/ 29,526	-	-	-

Asia:										
India i/ j/	3,296	3,885	3,406	3,533	3,461	17,064	18,096	16,400	15,240	15,640
Turkey d/	32	48	-	-	-	176	349	637	(660)	177
Japan d/	27	e/ 45	-	-	-	131	g/ 211	288	-	-
Cyprus d/	2	2	-	-	-	18	31	20	12	-
Estimated total excluding China c/	3,400	4,000	3,500	3,600	3,550	18,900	20,400	g/ 18,900	g/ 17,600	17,500
Africa:										
Morocco	52	51	126	59	101	440	362	984	303	172
Tunisia	4	1	-	-	-	30	4	-	-	-
Eritrea	e/ 4	e/ 4	-	-	-	e/ 36	e/ 29	-	-	-
Egypt d/	3	7	31	30	7	44	87	311	322	77
Estimated total c/	65	65	165	95	120	560	490	1,340	670	310
South America:										
Argentina	6,677	6,077	4,986	g/ 3,098	3,419	74,346	59,571	61,926	g/ 30,967	39,486
Uruguay	392	407	255	403	457	3,522	3,894	2,854	g/ 4,055	4,685
Chile	-	e/ 5	13	16	-	-	e/ 37	139	137	-
Estimated total c/	7,100	6,500	5,300	4,000	4,000	78,400	64,200	66,000	36,000	45,000
Oceania:										
New Zealand	4	1	1	-	-	53	17	-	-	-
Estimated total c/	g/ 6	g/ 3	g/ 66	g/ 66	g/ 56	61	24	250	250	250
Estimated world total excluding China	20,800	19,500	24,000	g/ 18,300	19,000	147,700	136,800	g/180,100	g/114,200	136,200

Compiled from official sources and publications of the International Institute of Agriculture and includes Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations estimates (shown in parentheses) based on foreign service reports and other information.

a/ Harvests of the Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus, the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere countries in 1944 is combined with the Southern Hemisphere harvest which began late in 1944 and ended early in 1945.

b/ Preliminary.

c/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries.

d/ Acreage includes area for fiber.

e/ Average of less than 5 years.

f/ Unofficial estimate.

g/ Revised.

h/ Including Southern Dobrudja.

i/ Sown area.

j/ Officially reported figures plus Indian official estimates for unreported tracts except in 1943, 1944, and 1945, when no estimates for unreported tracts were available.

Despite the reduced estimate for Argentine flaxseed, stocks on April 1 must have been large as there has been practically no movement of the new crop, and the practice of burning linseed oil for fuel was discontinued in 1945.

Uruguay's exportable surplus of flaxseed from the 1944 and 1945 crops will be available to the United States according to an agreement between the two Governments. The Commodity Credit Corporation will do the buying, and flaxseed will be distributed in accordance with recommendations of the Combined Food Board. The price is $2.275 per bushel f.o.b. Montevideo. An allowance of 10 cents per bushel has been authorized on an unspecified quantity of the old seed to compensate in part for accrued carrying charges.

The small supplies in Oceania were probably retained for domestic consumption. Australia increased flaxseed production during the war in order to meet linseed-oil requirements. Formerly this oil was imported from the United Kingdom.

Crop Outlook For 1946

Prospects for flaxseed production in 1946 are uncertain. World demand for linseed oil will undoubtedly encourage larger acreage in the South American countries. Canadian and United States goals call for increases of 18 and 6 percent, respectively. Although the March report indicated that farmers in this country were not planning to meet the increase, it is possible that with favorable weather conditions the outturn may compare well with that of last year. The Government support price for the 1946 flaxseed crop will be $3.60 per bushel for No. 1 grade, Minneapolis basis.

As an inducement to meet this year's goal of 1.25 million acres, the Canadian Government will pay producers $3.25 (Canadian currency) per bushel for No. 1 C W flaxseed, basis Lakehead or Vancouver. This is an increase of 50 cents per bushel over the price now being paid. The higher rate will not become effective until August 1.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of C. M. Purves, Fred J. Rossiter, Regina H. Boyle, Helen Francis. Lazar Volin, Lois B. Bacon, and Robert J. Manovill.

FLUID MILK CONSUMPTION HIGHER IN MANY COUNTRIES

Larger quantities of fluid milk were consumed in 1945 than in prewar in nearly all countries where supplies permitted. Smaller quantities remained in most countries for the production of butter and cheese, but the output of dried milk was generally maintained or increased above prewar levels.

The milk supply was short of demand in all but a few countries, and even in these some areas were short. Rationing or restrictions as to use prevailed in most countries. The general shortages of food and a high consumer purchasing power greatly increased the demand for fluid milk. In many countries food rationing caused individuals, who previously consumed little fluid milk, to purchase their allotments and thus to add to the total consumption.

Although the higher level of fluid milk consumption in 1945 is a continuation of the wartime trend, the return of overseas military forces and removal of restriction on milk use in the United States and Canada, greatly increased the consumption of fluid milk and cream. Milk production in 1945 was below prewar levels for all countries where reliable estimates are available, except for the United States and Canada. In these two countries, near-record milk cow numbers and a high output per cow resulted in a record milk production for the year.

On the other hand, production per cow was well below prewar in most other countries because of lack of concentrate feeds. Cow numbers were also smaller in all major countries except the United Kingdom. That country has increased its milking herds during the war, but output per cow is smaller because of a greater dependency upon home-grown feeds.

Notwithstanding the highest average production per cow on record in the United States in 1945, this rate of 4,789 pounds was exceeded in 1945 in Denmark, Switzerland, New Zealand, Belgium, Sweden, and the United Kingdom.

Considerably smaller quantities of milk have remained for use in the manufacture of butter as a result of the greater consumption of liquid milk and the decline in total milk production in most countries. Compared to prewar the quantities utilized for making butter have been much smaller in the United States, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, United Kingdom, Italy, and Finland. Butter production has, however, been well maintained in Canada and Sweden.

In 1945 more milk than in prewar years was used in the manufacture of cheese in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Denmark. Cheese production was maintained at a high level in order to supply their military forces and also the import requirements of the United Kingdom. On the other hand, for most European countries the quantities going into cheese making were greatly reduced, with the greatest reduction probably occurring in Italy and France.

For canned milk the quantity utilized in the United States in 1945 was nearly double that so used in prewar years. This country had to supply most of the Allied world and also to meet requirements for the military forces. Relatively small quantities of milk, but above prewar, were used for the production of canned milk in Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. The Netherlands was an important exporter of canned milk prior to the war, but relatively small quantities were utilized for that purpose in 1945.

MILK: Production and utilization in specified countries, 1945

Country	Production			Utilization a/					
	Milk cows b/	Production per cow	Milk production	Fluid milk c/	Butter	Cheese	Canned milk	Other uses c/	Feed
	1,000 head	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	25,519	4,789	e/ 125,045	58,428	34,184	11,113	8,933	9,086	3,301
Canada	3,998	4,407	17,619	5,724	8,118	2,094	510	377	796
United Kingdom	3,533	5,044	17,822	14,341	650	550	450	531	1,300
Sweden	1,869	5,182	9,685	3,417	4,921	602	-	f/ 40	705
Finland	1,120	2,716	3,042	1,615	1,200	75	0	0	152
Denmark	1,582	5,972	9,447	1,748	6,548	445	-	f/ 99	607
Belgium	783	5,220	4,087	1,100	2,150	172	1	64	600
Switzerland	805	5,637	4,544	2,074	876	838	36	20	700
Italy	2,200	3,150	6,930	2,500	1,200	1,600	58	32	1,540
Australia	2,277	4,355	g/ 9,917	2,006	6,523	792	242	354	-
New Zealand	1,699	5,231	8,888	595	6,117	1,888	-	f/ 113	175

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

a/ Includes farm uses. b/ Includes, for the United States and Canada, cows kept mainly for milk and, for all other countries, cows producing over and above the requirements of the calf. c/ Includes milk used for cream. d/ Includes milk for minor products, waste and balance. e/ Total production is shown. Milk production on farms - 122,219 million pounds. f/ Includes canned milk. g/ Excludes milk fed to calves.

MILK: Production and utilization in specified countries, 1934-1938

Country	Production			Utilization a/					
	Milk cows b/	Production per cow	Milk production	Fluid milk c/	Butter	Cheese	Canned milk	Other uses d/	Feed
	1,000 head	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United States	23,933	4,291	e/ 105,416	43,559	43,729	6,449	4,607	4,333	2,739
Canada	3,816	4,138	15,789	4,645	8,197	1,411	273	472	791
United Kingdom	3,300	5,583	18,424	11,100	2,800	1,008	647	686	2,183
Norway	807	3,660	f/ 2,954	1,124	1,111	489	-	g/ 53	177
Sweden	1,922	5,327	f/ 10,238	3,283	4,145	782	-	g/ 44	1,984
Finland	1,309	4,268	5,587	2,556	2,735	205	-	-	91
Denmark	1,658	7,047	f/ 11,684	1,433	9,314	331	-	g/ 55	551
Netherlands	1,460	7,658	11,180	2,321	5,536	2,291	-	g/ 520	512
Belgium	967	6,840	6,614	1,411	3,968	441	-	-	794
France	7,856	3,886	h/ 30,525	5,838	9,361	4,281	-	g/ 3,739	7,306
Germany	10,076	5,270	f/ 53,100	16,100	28,100	2,400	-	500	6,000
Switzerland	902	6,697	f/ 6,041	2,125	1,497	1,303	-	g/ 49	1,067
Italy	3,466	3,968	i/ 13,750	3,700	2,700	3,600	24	626	3,100
Austria	j/ 1,210	4,442	f/ 5,375	3,020	1,102	662	-	-	591
Australia	2,545	4,629	k/ l/ 11,780	1,612	9,466	444	m/ 258	-	-
New Zealand	1,807	5,232	9,454	532	6,922	1,754	-	g/ 57	189

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

a/ Includes farm uses. b/ Includes, for the United States and Canada, cows kept mainly for milk and, for all other countries, cows producing over and above the requirements of the calf. c/ Includes milk used for cream. d/ Includes milk for minor products, waste and balance. e/ Total production is shown. Milk production on farms - 102,590 million pounds. f/ For the years 1933-1937. g/ Includes canned milk. h/ For the years 1937 and 1938. i/ For the year 1938. j/ For the year 1934. k/ For the years ending June. l/ Excludes milk fed to calves. m/ Includes dried whole milk. n/ Utilization of butterfat converted to milk equivalent on the basis of 4.5 percent fat content.

While separate statistics are not shown for milk used in the production of dried whole milk, the quantity used for that purpose in 1945 was maintained or increased above prewar levels. Increased production of this product is reported in the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Belgium, and Italy.

The United States and Canada are the only countries showing an increase in the use of whole milk for feed. Most countries, especially in Europe, are utilizing considerably less milk for this purpose.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed C. M. Purves, Floyd E. Davis, Regina Murray, and Karen J. Friedman.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS 1/

CANADIAN GRAIN STOCKS LOWEST IN 7 YEARS

Canadian grain stocks in all North American positions on March 31 were the smallest reported since that date in 1939, according to figures recently ~~released~~ by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The largest reduction was noted in wheat stocks, which at 213 million bushels had declined about 291 million bushels during the past year. The smaller 1945 crop together with the increased export movement accounts for the comparatively low stock level. Stocks of oats, reported at 168 million bushels, were 75 million bushels smaller than at the end of March 1945, and barley stocks were down about 22 million bushels. From the low level of the March 31 stocks it is evident that the year-end carry-over stocks will be the smallest of recent years.

Of the total wheat stocks, 106 million bushels, or about a half, were held on farms, compared with 154 million a year earlier. The substantial decrease at the farm level is attributed largely to the smaller crop, together with the early lifting of delivery quotas. Stocks in country elevators were placed at 36 million bushels, compared with 180 million a year ago. Lakehead stocks, estimated at 24 million bushels, were also much smaller than last year's figure of 57 million bushels.

Farm stocks of wheat in the Prairie Provinces accounted for about 102 million bushels of the total of 106 million held on farms throughout the country. Farm holdings in the Prairie Provinces were placed as follows, in million bushels: Saskatchewan, 61; Alberta, 30; and Manitoba,

1/ This section is continued on page 257.

11. Seed requirements will come from that supply, as will feed needs for the remainder of the crop year.

The estimated quantity of wheat used or to be used for feed for the present crop year is somewhat smaller than that fed during 1944-45, thus continuing a reduction in wheat feeding that became apparent last year. About 39 million bushels of wheat are expected to be fed in the Province where grown in the current season compared with almost 50 million bushels fed where grown in 1944-45. These figures exclude wheat shipped out of the Prairie Provinces for feeding under the Federal Freight Assistance Policy. Such shipments, placed at 14.4 million bushels for the first 6 months of the current crop year, showed a slight increase compared with that period of the past year.

CANADA: Grain stocks in all positions,
March 31, 1946, with comparisons

Position	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Rye
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
In Canada				
On farms	106,043	130,477	41,036	742
Country and private terminal elevators	35,600	7,300	6,319	254
Western mills and mill elevators	4,702	1,091	415	34
Interior terminal elvators	1,746	1,283	1,689	-
Vancouver-New Westminster elevators	5,329	496	183	-
Victoria and Prince Rupert elevators	1	-	-	-
Churchill elevator	1,878	a/	-	-
Fort William-Port Arthur elevators	23,992	18,703	10,749	445
In transit-rail	9,790	3,547	842	173
Eastern elevators	17,076	4,360	5,122	74
Eastern mills	4,798	586	476	9
Total	210,955	167,843	66,831	1,731
Canadian grain in the United States	2,457	248	50	87
Total Canadian grain in North America	213,412	168,092	66,881	1,818
March 31, 1945				
In Canada b/	480,095	242,781	88,433	4,988
In the United States	24,076	219	739	46
Total b/	504,171	243,000	89,172	5,034

From reports of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.
a/ Less than 500 bushels. b/ Revised figures.

Wheat exports up to March 31 considerably exceeded the export movement for that period of a year earlier. Exports of wheat, including flour in terms of wheat, were reported at about 258 million bushels for the first

8 months of the crop year, compared with 175 million bushels for that period of the past season.

Total oat stocks of 168 million bushels compare with 243 million a year earlier. About 130 million bushels were on farms on March 31 of the current season. Barley stocks in all positions amounted to about 67 million bushels, compared with 89 million bushels a year ago. Stocks of rye were down to 1.8 million bushels from the 5 million bushels reported last year and the average of 11.4 million for the past 5 years.

BURMA'S RICE CROP CRITICALLY SHORT

The 1945-46 rice harvest in Burma, formerly the world's largest exporter of rice, is reported at only 39 percent of prewar average (1935-36 through 1939-40) production. The crop is officially estimated at 134,455,000 bushels (4,235 million pounds milled), compared with the prewar average of 348,534,000 bushels (10,980 million pounds). Very poor yields per acre were harvested, as a result of disorganized conditions caused by the war and of unfavorable late rains in the major growing area of Burma.

BURMA: Rice production, trade, and utilization, averages 1930-31 through 1939-40, annual 1940-41 and 1945-46

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production		Exports b/	Apparent utilization b/
			Rough	Milled a/		
	1,000 acres	Bushels	Million bushels	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average -						
1930-31 to						
1934-35	12,770	28.1	358	11,284	6,985	4,300
1935-36 to						
1939-40	12,671	27.5	349	10,979	6,504	4,500
1940-41 c/	12,442	31.6	394	12,404	d/ 6,983	d/ 5,400
1945-46	6,790	19.8	134	4,235	-	-

Compiled from official sources.
a/ Rough rice converted in terms of milled at 70 percent.
b/ During calendar year following December-January harvest.
c/ Preliminary. d/ January-November.

Supplies from a crop this size not only would be insufficient to export rice to other countries during 1946, but also would be less than consumption before the war. Burman rice exports during 1936-40 averaged 6.5 billion pounds, distributed as follows: 3.5 billion pounds to India, 800 million to Ceylon, and 500 million to British Malaya. Exports of 625 million pounds were sent to Europe, about 120 million to Africa, and 100 million to the Caribbean area.

UNITED STATES RICE EXPORTS SHOW GAIN

United States rice exports during the first half of the August-July 1945-46 marketing year showed a gain over those for the corresponding period a year earlier, indicating that exports for the year may exceed even the wartime record of 1944-45. Exports during August-February amounted to 426 million pounds, against 333 million in the same period a year ago. More than 100 million pounds of these exports were sent to the Netherlands Indies and Philippine Islands, where a serious reduction in rice supplies developed during the war. The amount exported to Cuba was slightly above that for last season.

UNITED STATES: Rice exports to specified countries, August-February 1945-46, with comparisons a/

	August-July			August-February	
	Average 1937-38 to 1941-42	1943-44	1944-45 b/	1944-45 b/	1945-46 b/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
United Kingdom	6	60	18	7	c/
Soviet Union	c/	51	35	21	5
Sweden	7	c/	c/	c/	0
Greece	6	5	7	5	1
Netherlands	5	0	21	0	0
Belgium	7	0	0	0	0
Other Europe	12	1	15	15	6
Total Europe	43	117	96	48	12
Cuba	275	298	333	246	252
Canada	19	37	36	24	26
British West Indies	c/	11	3	2	9
Netherlands Indies	d/	0	0	0	60
Philippine Islands	1	0	0	0	46
Others	20	21	23	13	21
Total	358	484	491	333	426

Compiled from official records, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
a/ Includes milled rice and rough rice converted in terms of milled at 65 percent. b/ Preliminary. c/ Less than 500,000 pounds.
d/ If any, included in "others."

CHILE'S RICE CROP SETS NEW RECORD

The 1945-46 Chilean rice crop of 8,252,000 bushels (240 million pounds milled) compares with the final estimate of 7,826,000 bushels (230 million pounds) a year ago and is eight times as large as prewar (1936-1940) production. This year's harvest is the fifth consecutive record crop produced in that country. The latest estimate for the 1945-46 area is 118,000 acres, against 110.000 last year and the 5-year average of 13,000. This season's yield averaged 70 bushels per acre, the lowest since 1937-38.

Exports from the 1944-45 crop amounted to about 100 million pounds in 1945, the record for Chilean rice exports. This cereal was first exported in 1941, with net imports averaging 24 million pounds during 1936-1940.

FATS AND OILS

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN
OLIVE-OIL OUTPUT LOW 1/

The 1945-46 preliminary estimate of edible olive-oil production in the principal producing countries of the Mediterranean Basin is 568,500 short tons, the smallest since the 494,600 tons in 1930-31. This estimate may be compared with 774,300 tons in 1944-45 and 940,100 tons in 1943-44. It is only 68 percent of the 5-year (1938-39 through 1942-43) average of 834,900 tons and 63 percent of the 10-year (1933-34 through 1942-43) average of 904,200 tons.

EDIBLE OLIVE OIL: Estimated production in Mediterranean Basin (Revised)
(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Country	Average 1938-39 through 1942-43	Average 1933-34 through 1942-43	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45 a/	1945-46 b/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
France	8,200	8,500	4,200	4,400	9,000	5,500
Greece	101,800	109,400	91,500	88,900	67,100	99,000
Italy	215,500	218,600	198,600	197,000	264,400	110,000
Portugal	55,500	58,000	33,000	90,000	44,000	39,100
Spain	320,800	376,000	264,000	440,000	242,000	220,000
Yugoslavia	4,200	4,100	3,000	3,300	1,500	2,000
Palestine	7,800	6,300	10,400	10,900	3,000	13,000
Syria and Lebanon	12,800	13,900	19,800	11,800	11,900	23,000
Turkey	35,700	32,100	35,200	27,500	26,400	33,000
Algeria	16,700	16,000	17,600	20,900	16,500	8,800
French Morocco	12,700	11,400	13,200	5,300	3,800	3,300
Tunisia	40,800	47,400	55,000	38,500	82,500	8,800
Libya	2,400	2,500	1,300	1,600	2,200	3,000
Total	834,900	904,200	746,800	940,100	774,300	568,500

Compiled from trade and official sources.
a/ Preliminary estimate. b/ Preliminary forecast.

Drought throughout the Mediterranean area during last July and August was the principal cause for such a small production. Growing conditions in most countries during 1945 were unsatisfactory. Other contributing factors were lack of insecticides, fungicides, fertilizer, transportation, war damage, and heavy crops of the previous year in some countries. The largest decline in output occurred in Tunisia, followed by Italy and France. Certain other countries, notably Greece, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey reported larger production.

The world-wide shortage of edible fats and oils prevented many countries in this area from importing cheaper vegetable oils from abroad, thus increasing the demand for the limited domestic production of edible oils. In general, practically every country prohibited free exportation of olive oil, and nearly all of them put some form of rationing or equitable distribution system for available oil into effect.

Early this year, after considerable discussion among government agencies, members of the trade, and other parties, it was agreed that the United States would approve the exchange of soybean oil for equal quantities of edible olive oil with the Mediterranean countries. Several countries agreed to this proposal. On April 9, Spain assented to exchange 5,500 short tons of olive oil. Smaller exchange quantities were agreed to by Italy, Syria, Lebanon, and Greece. Negotiations are still going on with other countries which may eventually result in further exchange, though at this time nothing definite has been agreed upon.

There are a great many obstacles to be overcome in most areas even if production had been larger. Transportation is badly disorganized, and there is a shortage of drums. The shortage of all foods and a general lack of confidence in local currencies has brought about widespread black market operations and high prices.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural prospects approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of C. M. Purves, Acting Chairman, W. R. Schreiber, and L. B. Bacon.

1/ A more extensive statement on this subject is available upon request to the Division of Foreign Information and Statistics, Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

CUBA'S FAT AND OIL SUPPLY STILL SHORT

Cuba's general fats and oils situation during March continued to be unsettled, with widespread scarcities. Edible and inedible fats arrivals were less than allocations owing to interruptions in the sea-train service from the United States, a shortage of containers, and the official Cuban ceiling price on soybean oil which is below the cost of importation.

Total March arrivals of edible oils, all soybean, were 305,560 pounds, compared with 148,600 pounds in February. Most of the edible oil was utilized by industrial users or was hydrogenated and sold to bakers. Lard imports of 7.4 million pounds were received, compared with 4.7 million in February.

Soap fat imports were small during March. Receipts included only 122,078 pounds of tallow, 141,258 pounds of coconut oil, and 110,665 pounds of Brazilian palm oils. There were no tallow arrivals in February and less than 2,000 pounds of coconut oil. The 3.2 million pounds of soap imported from Argentina in March will tend to maintain stocks, although imports of soap fats so far in 1946 have been negligible. Last month's imports of linseed oil were 83,904 pounds, all from the United States. It is likely that Argentine export controls are limiting the export of this oil to Cuba.

Cuban lard and tallow production probably totals about 500,000 and 900,000 pounds a month, respectively. Production of these commodities has shown little change in the first quarter. Butter output is probably no more than 100,000 pounds monthly. Milk production is at a low point because of the regular dry season affecting pasturage.

There are indications that Cuba will try to increase its production of oilseeds. In addition to encouraging greater peanut production, it is reported that Cuba may again undertake the cultivation of sesame seed. Selected seed is to be imported from Central America, and an effort will be made to mechanize the cultivation as much as possible. The previous attempt to produce this crop in the early 1930's failed, owing to high costs for manual labor. Sesame oil could not compete with imported oils.

INDIA'S OILSEED ACREAGE REDUCED

India's flaxseed acreage for 1945-46 is placed at 2,637,000 acres, compared with the corresponding revised figure of 2,831,000 acres for last year, according to the second official forecast. The area planted to rape and mustard seed has also decreased to 2,793,000 acres from 2,968,000 a year ago. Condition of the crops is reported fairly good despite unfavorable weather conditions.

CUBA ENCOURAGES PEANUT PRODUCTION

The Cuban Government has proposed increasing the peanut price to growers from $4.50 to $5.50 a Spanish quintal ($4.44 to $5.42 per 100 pounds), in order to stimulate production in 1946. A processors' subsidy of $1.00 a quintal ($0.99 per 100 pounds) would be paid to the crushers so that oil could be sold at current ceiling prices. The principal peanut crop is now being planted and normally a minor one is planted in August-September.

The 1945 crop was estimated at 47 million pounds, a decrease of 6 percent from that harvested a year ago and 11 percent from the preceding 5-year average.

Production estimates vary greatly in view of the fact that complete marketings have not been reported. The total quantity of seed used in 1945 may have been nearly normal, but a considerable amount failed to germinate because of the severe drought, and extensive reseeding was required.

Sixty percent of the seed planted in 1943 was of the white Spanish variety purchased from the United States, but yields from this seed were relatively low owing to unfavorable weather and lack of resistance to leaf spot infection. As a result, only 15 percent of this type was used in 1945. Oil yields of the Spanish peanut in Cuba average 30 percent, but the yield of the native type is only about 25 percent.

There are six large as well as several small crushers producing peanut oil in Cuba. Output of oil from the 1945 crop was probably a little over 10 million pounds.

CUBA: Peanut production, disposition, and oil output, 1945 with comparisons

Year	Production	Seed and edible uses	Crushed	Oil equivalent
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average 1937-1941	30.9	2.9	28.0	7.7
1942	41.8	4.8	37.0	10.2
1943	70.0	7.0	63.0	17.0
1944	50.0	7.0	44.0	12.0
1945	47.0	7.0	40.0	10.0

Source: Reports from the American Embassy, Habana.

TOBACCO

RECORD FLUE-CURED CROP SEEN IN INDIA

Revised estimates place the 1945-46 crop of Indian flue-cured tobacco at 62.4 million pounds from 113,150 acres, compared with the 1944-45 production of 54.3 million pounds from 116,550 acres. The current crop is the largest Indian production of flue-cured leaf on record and compares with the 5-year (1934-35 through 1938-39) average of only 26.9 million. Most of India's flue-cured tobacco is produced in the Guntur District of Madras Presidency.

Farm prices for leaf now being cured are expected to be higher than those paid for the 1944-45 crop. Reports indicate that prices for the

1945-46 outturn will average about 20.7 cents per pound, compared with 17.9 cents for the previous crop and with a prewar average price of about 12 cents.

Import requirements for United States leaf during 1946 are reported to be larger than for the previous year. These imports are primarily flue-cured leaf for use in the manufacture of quality cigarettes. In 1945, India took about 16 million pounds of leaf from the United States, practically all flue-cured. During the prewar (1935-1939) period exports of United States leaf to India averaged only about 3 million pounds.

TURKEY'S TOBACCO CROP REDUCED BY DROUGHT

Turkey's tobacco production in 1945 amounted to 134 million pounds from 174,000 acres, according to a report from the American Consulate General at Istanbul. A record crop has been anticipated, but drought conditions in most growing areas, particularly in the Aegean region, reduced yields and contributed to the lower outturn. The 1945 crop was generally of good quality, although the quality of a small portion was affected by tobacco thrips.

Considerable quantities of 1945 crop leaf have already been sold by growers at favorable prices. Prices for tobacco sold at the Izmir market averaged about 66 cents per pound. Reports state that by April 1 American firms had already purchased about 14 million pounds of Izmir leaf. Prices for the Bursa district have ranged from 32 to 57 cents per pound. Leaf markets for the country as a whole are expected to close some time before the end of May.

TOBACCO PLANTINGS UP IN LEVANT AREA

The 1946 tobacco acreage in Syria and Lebanon, authorized by the "Regie," which holds the monopoly of the tobacco industry, amounts to 26,762 acres. In 1945, these two countries produced about 14.7 million pounds of tobacco from 25,007 acres and in 1944, about 10.2 million pounds from 17,273 acres.

Tobacco grown in Syria and Lebanon falls into three principal categories: Oriental for domestic consumption, tombac for water pipes, and Latakia for export. The authorized 1946 acreage for Latakia is placed at 10,502 acres, compared with actual plantings of 9,069 acres and 4,349 acres in 1945 and 1944, respectively. Production of Latakia in 1945 totaled 7.3 million pounds, compared with 3.5 million during the previous season. Based on normal yields, the 1946 crop should approximate 8.5 million pounds and Syria and Lebanon's total outturn of all types of tobacco might reach 16 million pounds.

Reports indicate that there are no carry-over stocks of 1944-crop Latakia. The 1945 outturn is now being prepared for export and about 6 million pounds are said to be available for shipment in the immediate future. Most of the exports of Latakia are destined to United States manufacturers, although some quantities are usually taken by the United Kingdom and North African countries.

ARGENTINA HARVESTS LARGER TOBACCO CROP

The first official estimate of Argentine tobacco production during the 1945-46 season places the country's total outturn at 59.1 million pounds, or about 23 percent larger than the revised figure of 48 million for the 1944-45 crop. Tobacco production averaged about 36 million pounds during the crop years 1939-40 through 1943-44.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

WEEKLY COTTON PRICES ON FOREIGN MARKETS

COTTON: Prices of certain foreign growths and qualities in specified markets

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1946	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pounds
Alexandria (spot)		Kantar			
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	4-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	31.75	26.50
Giza 7, F.G.F.	4-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	36.75	30.68
Karnak, F.G.F.	4-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	36.00	30.05
Bombay (May futures)		Candy			
Jarila	4-19	784 lbs.	Rupee	452.00	17.37
Bombay (Spot)		Candy			
Kampala, East African	4-19	784 lbs.	Rupee	850.00	32.66
Buenos Aires (spot)		Metric ton			
Type B	4-20	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1820.00	24.58
Lima (spot)		Sp.quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	4-20	101.4 lbs.	Sol	132.00	20.03
Recife (spot)		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	4-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	95.00	15.41
Sertao, Type 5	4-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	100.00	16.22
Sao Paulo (spot)		Arroba			
Sao Paulo, Type 5		33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	Not Available	
Torreon (spot)		Sp.quintal			
Middling, 15/16"		101.4 lbs.	Peso	Not Available	

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

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EAST AFRICAN FLAX OUTPUT DECLINES

Early estimates indicate that flax acreage planted in Kenya this year may not exceed 1,000 acres, compared with 7,500 acres planted in 1945 and a peak of 16,000 acres planted in 1943. Fiber production during 1945 from the 1944 acreage was about 670,000 pounds, or not much more than half of the 1,120,000 pounds produced during 1944. This was the smallest output since 1939 when about 280,000 pounds were produced. During the past 5 years fiber production has averaged about 850,000 pounds from an average of about 12,400 acres a year.

Production of tow has been larger than that of line fiber. The output during 1945 was about 1,130,000 pounds and compares with the 5-year average of about 1,230,000 pounds.

Lack of interest in the planting of flax in 1946 is attributed to the fact that contracts with the British Ministry of Supply will be terminated at the close of the 1946 processing season and, consequently, fiber processed from the 1946 plantings will have to be marketed without the benefit of guaranteed returns. Flax is harvested in Kenya late in the calendar year and is not scutched until the following year.

SUGAR

CUBA'S SUGAR OUTPUT FORECAST SMALLER

Cuba's sugar production for 1946 is now placed at 4.6 million short tons, 4 percent less than an earlier forecast of 4.8 million tons, but 18 percent larger than the 3.9 million in 1945. The reduced forecast is a result of continued dry weather from November until early April. Rainfall during this period averaged about 1.5 inches, compared with a normal of about 2.0 inches. Production in the Provinces of Pinar del Rio and Habana is expected to be more than 50 percent above the 1945 crop. Cane in these Provinces was severely damaged by the 1944 hurricane, but this area is of minor importance in Cuba's total sugar production. Production in Matanzas is forecast at 42 percent over the 1945 crop. A local hurricane in October 1945 damaged the 1946 crop of a number of mills along the border of Las Villas and Camaguey Provinces. This together with the drought on the north coast of Camaguey and Oriente Provinces accounts for the small increases of 7 to 12 percent in these Provinces over 1945.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

MEXICAN PINEAPPLE CROP TO BE LARGER

Mexican pineapple production for 1946 is now forecast at 2,677,000 crates of 70 pounds, 11 percent more than 1945 production of 2,405,000 crates, and probably the largest crop on record. Production in Loma Bonita, Oaxaca, and in Isla, Veracruz, the two largest producing regions, is estimated at 740,000 and 693,000 crates, respectively, compared with 653,000 and 539,000 in 1945. New plantings have been made in Veracruz and still larger plantings are expected to be made in 1947, indicating possible increases in production in 1947 and 1948. Quantities available for export during 1946 are estimated at around a million crates, compared with 320,000 crates exported during 1945, almost all of which came to the United States.

AUSTRALIAN FRUIT CROP SEEN LARGER

Australia's deciduous fruit output for 1945-46 will probably exceed that of 1944-45, because of better conditions existing in the growing periods. Dry conditions existed in the principal fruit growing districts in September and October, but rains at the end of October and November were of immense value to stone fruits. Acreage, which reached its maximum of 230,000 acres in 1937-38 and decreased gradually to 210,000 acres in 1942-43, has had a gradual increase since then, reaching 216,000 acres in 1944-45.

Apples are the most important non-citrus fruit grown in Australia. Acreage in 1944-45 was 88,000 acres, 41 percent of the total acreage under all types of orchard and other fruit production (excluding citrus and vine). Production for the 1945-46 season is indicated to be about 11 million bushels, compared with 9.3 million (revised) in the preceding year and is exceeded only by the crop of 12.7 million bushels in 1943-44. Tasmania, the most important apple growing State, accounts for about half of the total production.

Note: On page 157 of the March 18 issue, the table heading for the item on Newfoundland's blueberry crop should have read production and trade in Newfoundland instead of Canada.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS (cont)

CHILE REVISES GRAIN ESTIMATES

Grain production in Chile during 1945-46 was smaller than in the preceding year, according to the final estimate of the Ministry of Agriculture. Wheat production is now placed at 32,391,000 bushels, which is slightly larger than earlier season estimates, and compares with 33,405,000 bushels reported for a year ago.

Oats production is now estimated at 4,958,000 bushels, a slight reduction from the earlier estimate, and about 30 percent smaller than last year's crop of 7,041,000 bushels. The final estimate places the barley crop at 3,465,000 bushels, or only slightly less than a year ago.

LATE NEWS (cont)

Venezuela's production of dried milk and canned butter will be seriously affected unless supplies of tinplate can be obtained soon. Without containers for these products a large part of the milk production will be lost, it was stated.

Only UNRRA supplies are rationed in Greece, according to a despatch from former President Hoover, and these provide an average of 900 calories per day. Domestic supplies, which for the year averaged about 850 calories per day, are not rationed. The UNRRA ration amounts to 270 grams of bread per day, 340 grams of meat per month, and 220 grams of sugar per month. It was estimated that wheat stocks on May 1 would amount to 55,000 short tons and April loadings were reported at 31,900 tons. Since monthly requirements amount to 68,750 tons, it was calculated that June 1 stocks would amount to only 18,150 tons, or about 1 week's supply. Because of the lack of control over indigenous supplies, the bread grain supply situation will become critical, if not chaotic, unless receipts of wheat during May through September amount to at least 60,500 short tons monthly. The large majority of Greeks who cannot afford to buy in the open market must be attempting to subsist on as little as 1,200 to 1,300 calories a day.

Argentina's President Farrell on April 15 broadcast an appeal for public cooperation in ameliorating the European food crisis. Rather than ask for sacrifices, the request was for economy and avoidance of wastage in meats and breadstuffs. He pointed out that the exhaustion of agricultural machinery had acted to reduce Argentine wheat surpluses in recent years and is curtailing current sowings. Transportation difficulties, especially the shortage of rubber, were referred to as difficulties to be surmounted through public cooperation.

Total white-sugar production in Guatemala for the 1945-46 crop year was estimated at 50 million pounds, of which 30 million pounds had been milled by March 15. The Guatemalan Sugar Association reports that the local consumption of white sugar for the 10-year period 1935-1944 averaged about 2.8 million pounds monthly. During the latter part of 1945, local consumption of white sugar rose to 3.8 million pounds monthly. For the first quarter of 1946, this consumption had risen to an average of 4 million pounds monthly.

It is impossible to summarize the food situation in Yugoslavia, according to a despatch from former President Hoover. UNRRA reports about 5 million people in the famine area as relying largely on a bread ration of 450 grams per day. Stocks of cereals on hand amount to about 132,000 short tons. In addition, UNRRA has in reserve about 45,000 tons of army rations. Collections of indigenous foodstuffs appear to be adequate in the surplus area, but no information is available on shipments to deficit areas. UNRRA reports imported stocks in hands of the Yugoslavs on April 1 at 132,000 short tons and estimates domestic collections until the new harvest at 115,500 tons. Requirements of all "nonself suppliers" are reported as 133,000 short tons a month, half of which represent requirements in the famine area. Existing supplies are expected to be exhausted by May 20. Import requirements from May 1 through August 31 were placed at 70,400 short tons a month.